

The City of Blue Ash is honored to announce it has received the Great Lakes Park, Facility or Program Award for Summit Park.

This award, from the Great Lakes Park Training Institute (GLPTI) at Indiana University, "recognizes parks, facilities, and programs completed within the last 5 years which represent the cutting edge of the leisure movement in the United States. Award winners represent innovative, cost effective design, demonstrate the utilization of community input and resources, and provide a significant impact on their community and agency," according to the 2020 nomination guidelines.

"It is fantastic to receive this achievement from such an esteemed organization. Summit Park's design was carefully crafted to create a fun and vibrant gathering space for people of all ages. We are honored to be recognized for the hard work and strategic vision that went into the project," said Brian Kruse, Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Director.

Kruse attended the GLPTI Awards Dinner on Feb. 25, to accept the award in person.

Rachel Murray, The City of Blue Ash

Cincinnati scout is youngest Eagle Scout

HYDE PARK – Rob Meeks is an accomplished Eagle Scout who has also earned all of the Scouts BSA merit badges (138). He has hiked rim to rim at the Grand Canyon with his Troop twice, and one of the times his Troop teamed up with two other Troops from Indiana for the trek.



Rob receiving the Marine Corps League Good Citizenship Award.

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Last summer he served as the Wilderness Pledge Guia (Spanish word for guide) during his Crew's 12 day, 90+ mile trek at Philmont.

During their Philmont trek, they summited Mt. Phillips (11,736 ft.), climbed the Tooth of Time (9,003 ft), shot muzzle loaded rifles, climbed rocks, rappelled, mined for gold, and helped construct a new trail. Last summer, he attended the World Scout Jamboree held in West Virginia and he has visited the National Jamboree four times.

He is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and has served as an Elangomat three times during the Ordeal to help train new members. He attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference held at Michigan State University with other Scouts from his Council where he attended classes and participated in a variety of activities.

It was previously recorded that Kylan Ouerbacker, a Scout in Troop 813, from Ventura California was the youngest to become an Eagle Scout at the age of 11 years and 11 months old.

Rob surpassed this accomplishment by about 4 months, making him the youngest so far in scouting history to achieve the highest rank in scouting. Since then, Rob has earned 23 Eagle Palms.

To achieve the highest rank in scouting, candidates must progress through various ranks from Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, to Eagle and earn 21 merit badges including first aid, environmental science, personal fitness, camping, family life, citizenship, and emergency preparedness.

Additionally, Rob chose to complete an Eagle Service Project that would benefit his school, by building a Gaga ball pit for The New School Montessori. Rob prepared his plan, acquired project funding, and, with the aid of 17 other volunteers they spent 234 hours building the Gaga ball pit.

The Eagle Scout award is typically earned by less than 4 percent of those who join the Scouts BSA, according to organization. Rob's Troop was formed in 2013 and has had four Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Rank.

Rob, started in a variety of positions,